

WES BANNISTER RECOGNITION

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues the following press release, which tells the story of Wes Bannister, who succumbed to cancer earlier this month. As the first Vice President of the Orange County Water District, he advised me on water issues for many years, and gave me his personal direction. He was a leader in the community and the state, and he will be missed. I know firsthand that his contributions will be enjoyed by Orange Countians for generations to come.

WATER INDUSTRY LOSES A GREAT LEADER

THE ORANGE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT BOARD AND STAFF MOURNS THE UNTIMELY LOSS OF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR WES BANNISTER

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA (Dec. 11, 2009).—In the late hours of December 10, 2009, the water world and Orange County lost an important trailblazer and public servant, Wesley “Wes” Mastin Bannister lost his battle with cancer. Wes Bannister was elected to the Orange County Water District (OCWD) Board of Directors in 1991 representing Division 6, which includes Fountain Valley, Huntington Beach and parts of Westminster. He was re-elected to four consecutive four-year terms in 1996, 2001, 2004 and 2008. He was elected in 2007 and 2008 by his fellow board members to serve as the District’s 1st Vice President.

“The Board and staff of the Orange County Water District have lost an incredible leader who lived and breathed water,” stated OCWD Board President Stephen R. Sheldon. “Those who had the privilege of working with Wes know that he had the tenacity to get to the core of critical issues and drive and inspire others to do what was right and economically sound. He stood true to his principles and convictions, like no other person. We are truly sorry for his family’s great loss.”

During his tenure as a Board Member, the District celebrated many important achievements including the building and operation of the Groundwater Replenishment (GWR) System, the largest water purification project of its kind in the world, and a state-of-the-art Advanced Water Quality Assurance Laboratory.

In addition to serving on the OCWD Board, in 1993 Director Bannister was appointed Director to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) representing the Municipal Water District of Orange County. In 2004, Director Bannister was elected as Chair of the MWD Board of Directors, for which he served until October 31, 2006.

“Wes was a principled leader and committed advocate for Orange County and its water interests who also worked faithfully to address the water challenges facing the entire southern California region,” said Wayne Clark, President of the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC). “We were honored to have had Wes represent MWDOC as one of our appointed representatives to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and we are going to miss our good friend.”

Director Bannister devoted over 23 years to serving the communities of Orange County. He served on the Huntington Beach City Council from 1986 to 1990, including as Mayor in 1989. “I had the distinct honor of serving with Wes on the City Council,” stated Assemblyman Jim Silva (R-Huntington Beach).

“If it weren’t for his encouragement and support, I would not be serving in the Assembly today. Wes was invaluable to me and many of my colleagues when it came to solving state water issues. He was a mentor and a true friend who genuinely cared about the people in his community and gave of his time and energy to making a difference.”

Director Bannister was also the Republican nominee for California Insurance Commissioner in 1990 and was nominated to the Electoral College by President Bush in that same year. He also served on the West Orange County Board from 1986 to 1990 and on the Orange County Sanitation District Board of Directors, District 11, from 1988 to 1990.

In 1986, Director Bannister was appointed by the Governor to the California FAIR Plan Board of Governors and continued to serve on this Board until his untimely death. Since 1993, Director Bannister had represented OCWD on the Board of Directors of the Association of California Water Agencies Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA-JPIA). While serving, the Board elected him to the Governing Committee and to serve two years as its Vice President. Following his two-year term, the Board elected him President in 2005 for a three-year term.

Active in local affairs, Director Bannister served on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club and YMCA, as Charter President of the Huntington Beach Sunrise Rotary Club and as an advisor to the Huntington Beach Search and Rescue Post 536.

Director Bannister was born in Houston, Texas in 1936. He and his wife Elizabeth (Betty) Ann Rogers Bannister were married at Fort Sill in Oklahoma in 1959 where he was stationed and recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Director Bannister and his wife Betty have lived in Huntington Beach since 1969. Together, the Bannisters welcomed three children Catherine (Cathy) Ann, Alice (Lisa) Elizabeth and Douglas (Doug) Mastin.

In addition to devoting much of his time to serving the communities of Orange County, Director Bannister founded Bannister and Associates Insurance Agency in 1974, from which he retired in 2003. The family business continues to flourish under the leadership of his two surviving children Alice (Lisa) Elizabeth Bannister and Douglas (Doug) Mastin Bannister. Director Bannister is also survived by two grandchildren Kaitlyn Michelle and Brent Douglas.

RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING
THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF
BIBLICA

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend Biblica for the contributions they have made to our country and join with them in the celebration of their 200th anniversary.

On December 4, 1809, a small group of concerned citizens met in lower Manhattan to discuss how to make the Bible available to the residents of the city and formed the New York Bible Society, beginning an organization that has been woven into the fabric of United States culture for 200 years.

The New York Bible Society provided Scripture for members of the United States Armed Forces in each conflict, foreign and domestic, since the War of 1812, and in partnership with

the United States military chaplaincy, distributed more than 1,000,000 Bibles to members of the Armed Forces looking for courage, guidance, and comfort.

When the gates of Ellis Island opened in 1890, the New York Bible Society greeted new immigrants with a copy of Scripture in their native language, and over the 60 years that followed, provided an average of 160,000 copies of Scripture each year to immigrants.

In 1962, John Glenn lifted off into space with a Bible he received from the New York Bible Society. In 1968, the New York Bible Society sponsored the Committee on Bible Translation, a group responsible for creating the New International Version, which is now the most widely distributed, contemporary English version in the world, with more than 300,000,000 copies in circulation.

The New York Bible Society moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1988 and became the International Bible Society.

Following the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the International Bible Society distributed more than 800,000 copies of Scripture to those seeking hope and comfort during one of the darkest moments in United States history. The International Bible Society also provided Scripture to disaster survivors worldwide, including victims of Hurricane Katrina and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The International Bible Society merged with Living Bibles International and Send the Light and today operates as Biblica.

Biblica is one of the largest distributors of Bibles and biblical resources in the world, operates in 54 countries, and has translated the Bible into more than 100 languages. Biblica is the leading provider of Bible translations on the Internet, providing the Bible in 29 languages to more than 100,000,000 Internet users annually.

It is an honor to recognize Biblica as an integral part of our nation’s history and I commend them for the contributions they have made to the United States and around the world.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARY
MADELEINE SEGAL HALL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mary Madeleine Segal Hall, a remarkable woman and personal friend who passed away on October 6, 2009 at the age of 85.

Mary was born on July 18, 1924 in Jefferson, Texas to Margaret Manning and Maurice Segal. She graduated from Jefferson High School in 1940 and went on to attend the College of Marshall, now East Texas Baptist University, where she met her future husband of 48 years, the late Sam B. Hall, Jr., a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives and my good friend.

Throughout her 85 years, Mary was a dedicated member of the community. Her civic commitment was evidenced by the many community organizations in which she was involved. She was a charter member of Marshall Symphony League, served on the Boards of Marshall Symphony Society and the Starr